763158_1 PATENT APPLICATION NSP/CCD/rms Attorney's Docket No.: 1021.2003-001 November 2, 200/

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application No.:

10/668,668

Group:

1742

Filed:

September 23, 2003

Examiner: Kathleen A. McNelis

Confirmation No:

1053

For:

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AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 3, 2006, in the above-identified application. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

In lieu of filing an Appeal Brief, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith. An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is respectfully requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

Please amend the application as follows:

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